CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE) 25X1X

[redacted]

1. Following is a list of plants and factories subordinate to the Fourth Main Administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry and all the details I know about them.

Spolek pro Chemickou a Hutni Vyrobu, Usti nad Labem

2. This plant, [redacted] 25X1X
25X1X [redacted] was located just west of Usti nad Labem on the north side of the main road to Teplice-Sanov /5038N-1350E/. Founded at the end of the nineteenth century, Spolek was one of the oldest and largest chemical plants in Czechoslovakia. It was formerly part of a large combine of plants bearing the same name, the Association for Chemical and Metallurgic Production (Spolek pro Chemickou a Hutni Vyrobu), and this plant in Usti nad Labem continued to be referred to as Spolek. Two other plants remained affiliates of the Usti nad Labem plant, one in Boletice /5044N-1412E/ and another in Mnisek /4952N-1416E/. I know nothing about these latter two plants except that they both produced auxiliary chemicals for the textile and tanning industries and that both were quite old. The Mnisek plant was scheduled to be closed in the near future. During the expansion of the Usti nad Labem plant, conducted from 1918 to 1938, a new department for dyestuffs was created; after World War II only a few buildings were added, consisting mainly of warehouses. Because of space limitations no further expansion was contemplated; I heard that the production departments of the plant were to be transferred elsewhere in the distant future. Outside the plant proper and about 50 m. east of it there was a 10-story administration

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25X1A

[redacted]

building. In the right wing of this administration building were located a color laboratory for dyestuffs, where varieties of color were developed, and an organic-chemistry research laboratory, which was independent of the plant and probably under the supervision of the Technical Division of the Ministry of Chemical Industry. A department for dyestuffs was located in the center of the plant area. The largest of the warehouses built after World War II, for the storage of superphosphates, was situated outside of the plant on the south side of the main road to Teplice Sanov. In all, there were approximately 50 buildings in the plant area, but I do not know what most of them contained or where they were located. (See Annex A for [redacted] memory sketch of the Spolek Chemical Plant.) 25X1A

3. The principal products of Spolek were dyestuffs, all grades of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrofluoric acid (aqueous) and other fluorides, sulphites, hydrochloric acid, superphosphates, sodium hydroxide, potassium pyrosulphites, calcium chloride, sodium hyperchlorite (NaClO), sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, carbon disulphide, and salycylic acid. Acids were packed in 35-50 kg. carboys which were in turn packed in sawdust-filled, gypsum-sealed steel crates; other liquid products were packed in steel drums of 100 kg. capacity. Liquid products in large quantities, however, were shipped in railroad tank cars. Solid products were packed in 100-250 kg. wooden barrels. Products were shipped in railroad freight cars with a capacity of 10-25 metric tons. I know no production figures other than the dyestuff capacity of the plant, which was about 2,500 metric tons per year. The most important raw materials used in the factory were pyrites, phosphates, sulphur, semiorganic products for dyestuffs, and sodium chloride, all of them imported. Although I do not know definitely, I believe the pyrites came from Spain through various channels, one of which was British. I also heard that Czechoslovakia received its phosphates from North Africa but that some were expected to be imported from the USSR. Previously, sulphur came from Italy, but I think it is now imported from Rumania and the USSR. Production bottlenecks, some of them lasting several months, occurred rather frequently because of antiquated machinery and the lack of raw materials, especially ferrous metals. In view of the fact that the Spolek Plant was the largest of its type in Czechoslovakia, these bottlenecks seriously impaired distribution plans. [redacted] in August 1952, bottlenecks existed in the production of sulphuric and hydrochloric acids and, especially, sodium hydroxide. 25X1X

4. Electric power was supplied by a power station adjacent to the plant; previous to the reorganization of the chemical industry into a ministry this power plant had belonged to the plant, but as of August 1952, it was operated by the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Railroad facilities in the plant area were quite adequate; in fact, the plant practically had its own railroad system. Between 5,000 and 6,000 workers, mostly working in three shifts, were employed by the plant. Practically all the workers were men; most of them were Czechs but some of the skilled workers were Germans. The plant manager was a former worker, (fnu) ZOUREK, who had been an electrical worker in the Spolina Chemical Plant in Neratovice (5016N-1431E) during World War II. After the war he was transferred to the Sokolov (5011N-1238E) Chemical Plant where he joined the Communist Party. Through his political activity he became head of the Communist-led trade union in the plant and after the 1948 coup became manager of the plant. In 1950 he was made plant manager of the Spolek Chemical Plant in Usti nad Labem. Known as the most able of all former-worker managers and possessing considerable native intelligence as well as being a good

organizer, ZOUREK was frequently sent to plants which had administrati difficulties. ZOUREK's administrative deputy, (fnu) POSPISIL, was a very capable man but not a Party member and therefore with no political influence; he tried to overcome this handicap by manifesting considerable zeal and trying to gain confidence in Party circles. ZOUREK's financial deputy, (fnu) GREGOR, was not a member of the Communist Party and was, I think, a member of the BENEŠ party until 1948. He was retained in his position because of his renown as a financial expert, even though his brother, formerly the director of Chemapol (Corporation for Foreign Chemical Trade) and a former member of the BENEŠ party, has recently been dismissed and given a job as an ordinary worker. The financial deputy, GREGOR, was understandably considered politically unreliable by the Party. ZOUREK's chief engineer, (fnu) HOFFMANN, was quite anti-Communistic.

5. Plant passes were issued to every employee by the plant's security section. Ministry officials received passes valid only for the administration building. To enter the plant proper it was necessary to have a special pass issued by the Security Department of the Ministry of Chemical Industry. Under special circumstances the plant manager could issue a visitor's pass for the plant, but the visitor had to be escorted by a guard. (These security measures with regard to passes were similar for all chemical plants.) The plant was surrounded by a wall about three meters high. Entrance to the plant was either through the administration building or through the main entrance, which was guarded by civilian guards (Milice). As in the case of other plants, a special air raid system was being organized, but I have no details on these plans.

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East Bohemia Chemical Plant (Rybitvi)

6. The East Bohemia Chemical Plant, [redacted] was located in Rybitvi /5003N-1542E/, which was not a town but merely an area where chemical plant and living quarters for employees were located. Situated on the south side of the main road from Pardubice and Bohdaneč /5005N-1541E/, about five kilometers north of Pardubice, the plant was directly opposite that of the Synthesia Chemical Works [redacted] in Semtin /5004N-1543E/. Founded in 1938 and completed during World War II, Rybitvi (as the plant was often referred to) was greatly expanded after 1945 and especially after 1948. New departments, especially for dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, and chemical products for the tanning and textile industries, were still under construction in the Summer of 1952. Further expansion was planned but I do not have any details on it. The plant was formerly a part of the Union for Chemical and Steel Production (Spolek pro Chemickou a Hutni Vyrobu), but in 1949 it became an independent enterprise. About 20 buildings were located in a large area where there was ample room for expansion. The buildings were modern, of brick construction, with reinforced concrete, and flat roofs. They were built in four rows, separated from one another by concrete roadways; a spur track ran alongside each building. Several organic chemistry laboratories were located in the plant area. Two administration buildings were located some distance from each other. /See [redacted] memory sketch of the East Bohemia Chemical Plant. Both the Synthesia and Rybitvi plants are shown to present their juxtaposition to each other. [redacted] could give only a very general picture of the plants./ The main products of the plant were dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, and chemical agents for the tanning and textile industries. About 200 m. north of the plant area a large power station was under construction; this power station will supply both the Rybitvi and Synthesia Chemical Plants. Approximately 3,000 workers, working in three shifts, were employed by the Rybitvi plant. The plant manager was Ing. (fnu) HERING, a very able chemist who has been in charge of the plant since 1945. Although a Communist since 1945 and a man trusted by the Party, HERING was well liked by the workers and the administrative and technical staffs.

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Hrusov Chemical Works

7. This plant, [redacted] was located in Hrusov /4925N-1618E/, a suburb of Ostrava. One of the oldest plants in Czechoslovakia, Hrusov Chemical Works has been somewhat reconstructed since the war; I do not, however, think that much expansion is contemplated, because there is very little room for it. One of its post-war additions was a modern and efficient installation for filling carboys with acids, but I have no details on it. So far as I know, the plant's main 25X1A products were sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, sulphides, lithopone, titanic white, jeweler's rouge, and carbon disulphide. Sulphur dioxide had formerly been produced in small quantities at the Dimitrov Plant /[redacted] Bratislava but in 1951 the production of this item was transferred to Hrusov. Bottlenecks occurred almost immediately, due to poor management and the lack of steel containers. Sulphur dioxide was ordered from Hungary but by the time it arrived, production at the Hrusov plant had resumed, resulting in an oversupply of the item. The situation was rectified except for the shortage of steel containers. The production of titanic white depended on imports of ilmenite, which was imported from Norway and may now be imported from the USSR.

8. The plant had spur tracks leading into it, and the facilities seemed to be adequate. I do not think the plant had its own power plant and I do not know the source of its power. I would estimate the number of workers at about 2,000. The sulphuric acid department worked in three shifts, but I do not know about the rest of the plant. The plant manager was formerly a worker. His predecessor was a Russian chemist who had lived in Czechoslovakia for some time and was dismissed in 1951. The administrative deputy was (fnu) REHAK, a young and very able person, who accepted membership in the Party without any enthusiasm.

Novaky Chemical Works

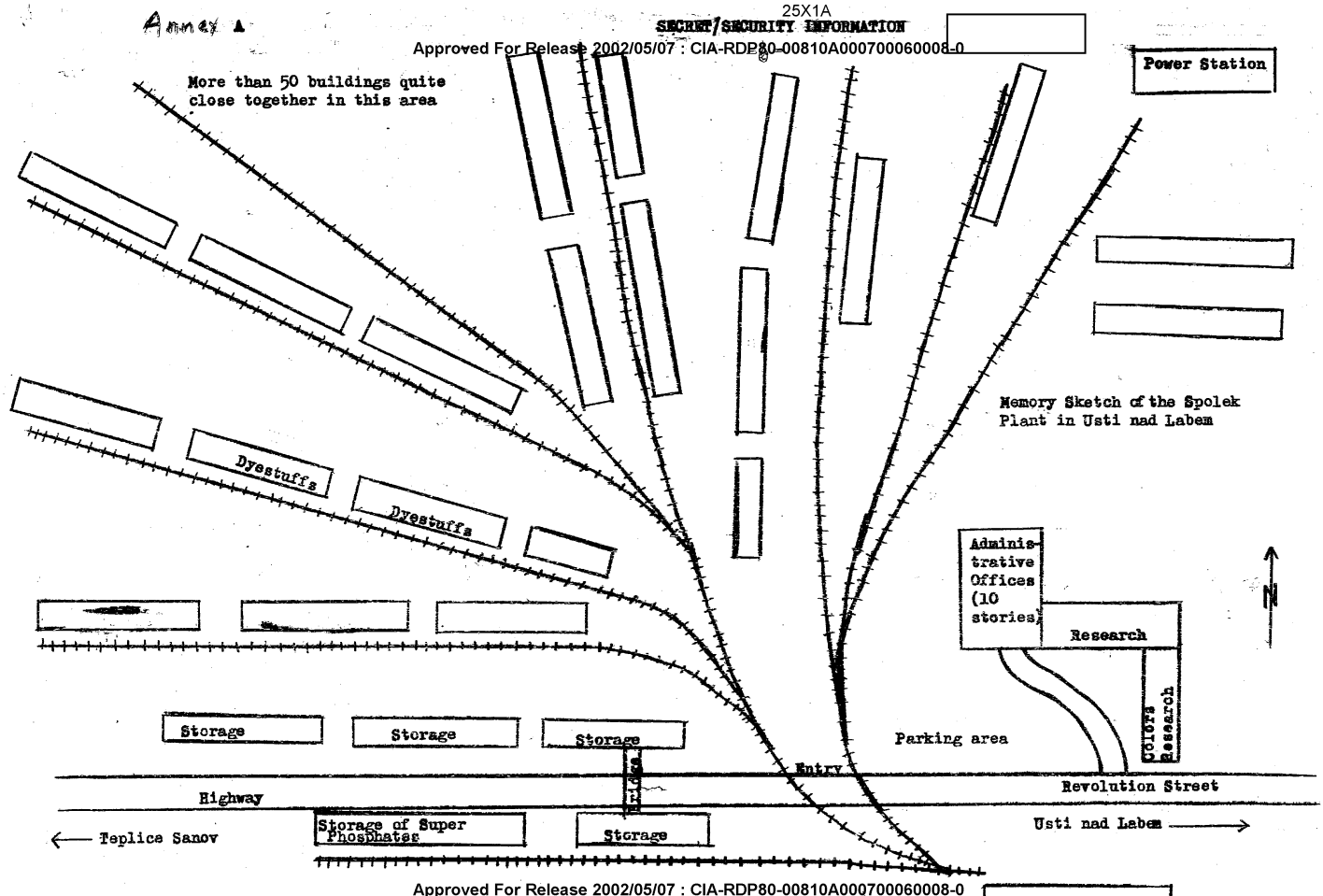
9. Located in the western outskirts of Novaky /4843N-1833E/, the Novaky Chemical Works was built during World War II and is still being expanded. [redacted] 25X1X there were 8-10 buildings, most of them of two stories and of different lengths. /See Annex [redacted] memory sketch of the 25X1A plant. All distances and dimensions are approximate./ Its principal products were sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, carbides, trichlorethylene, and "chlornan sodium". Bottlenecks in the production of carbides during 1952 prevented the plant from fulfilling its plan. I think the bottleneck was due principally to the fact that the plan called for too much production for the manpower available. Railroad facilities within the plant area seemed to be adequate, with spurs leading to all departments. Power was supplied by the power station of nearby mines at Handlova /4844N-1846E/. I would estimate the number of workers at 1,500-2,000. Some sort of concentration camp was located near the plant and it is quite possible that some of the inmates worked at the plant. A former worker, whose name I do not know, was the plant manager. The chief engineer was Dr. Ing. Alexander KLIMA, a strong Party member who was formerly deputy regional director for the Slovakian chemical industry. When the Czech chemical industry was reorganized the office of the regional director for Slovakia was abolished, whereupon Dr. KLIMA became chief engineer at Novaky. Dr. Ing. HRUSOVSKY, a young and very able chemist, and also a fervent Communist, was employed at the plant, but I do not know his position.

Lachema

10. Although not a production unit, Lachema, which was located in Brno, is included here because it was subordinate to the Fourth Main Administration and performed a rather important function, the handling and packaging of liquid laboratory chemicals. It was located in a former factory called Alpa, which was a three-story building of about 60 m x 10 m. It had an administrative staff of 40-50 people. In addition there were 50-60 workers who actually packaged the chemicals. The large administrative staff was necessary because Lachema packaged laboratory chemicals for all of Czechoslovakia. Dr. (fnu) CHARVAT was the head of Lachema, and his administrative deputy was Ing. (fnu) KLIR, who was dismissed from his position as head of Chemapol in 1951.

Annexes A: Memory Sketch of the Spolek Plant in Usti nad Labem
B: Synthesia and East Bohemian (Rybitvi) Chemical Works)
C: Memory Sketch of the Novaky Chemical Works

Annex A



Annex B

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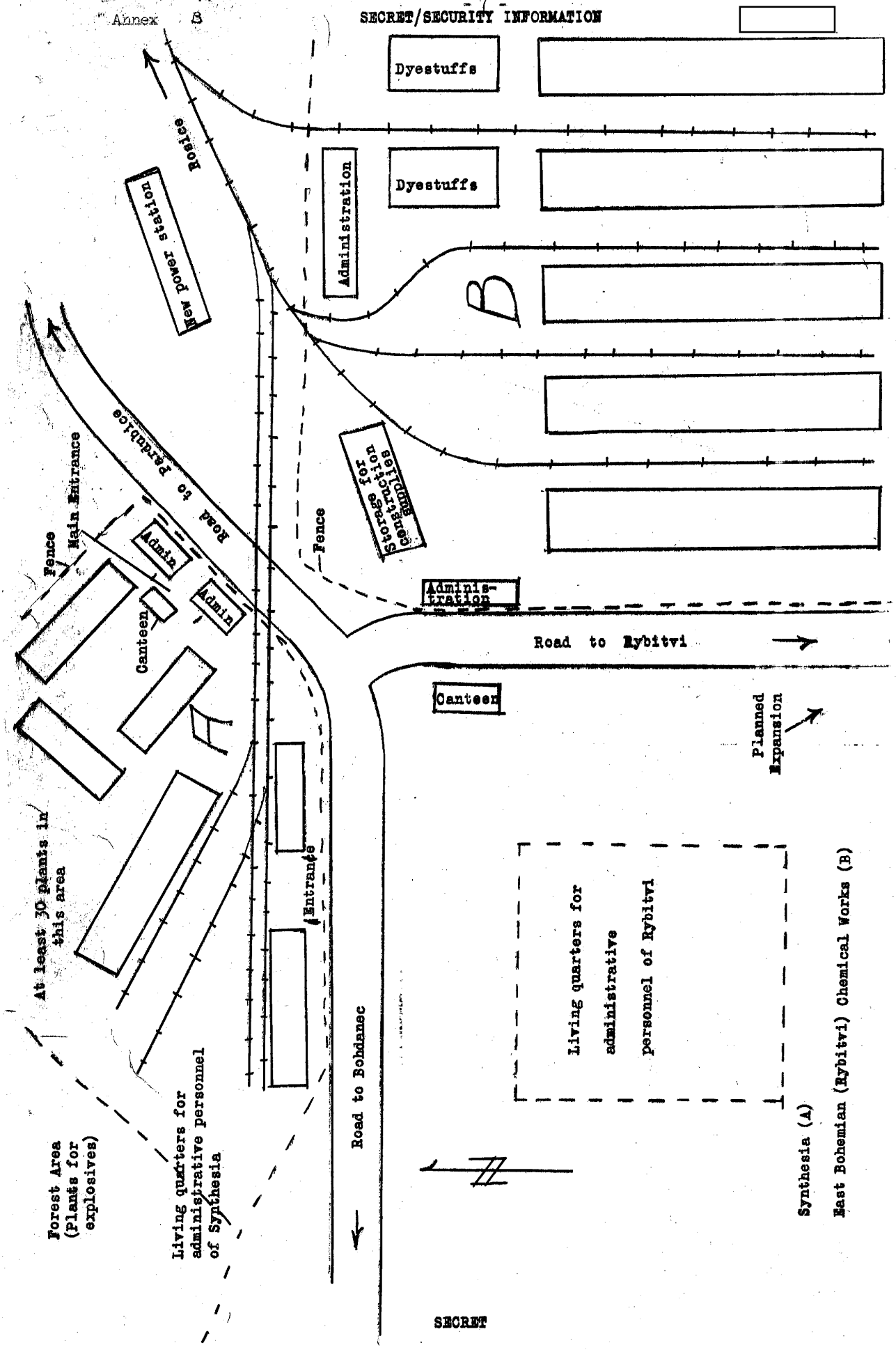

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ANNEX C

Memory Sketch of the Novaky Chemical Works